



FEMA

# National Situation Report

**As of 5:30 a.m. Thursday, September 15, 2005**

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Homeland Security Threat Level:

**ELEVATED**

## Hurricane Ophelia Pounds the Coast of North Carolina

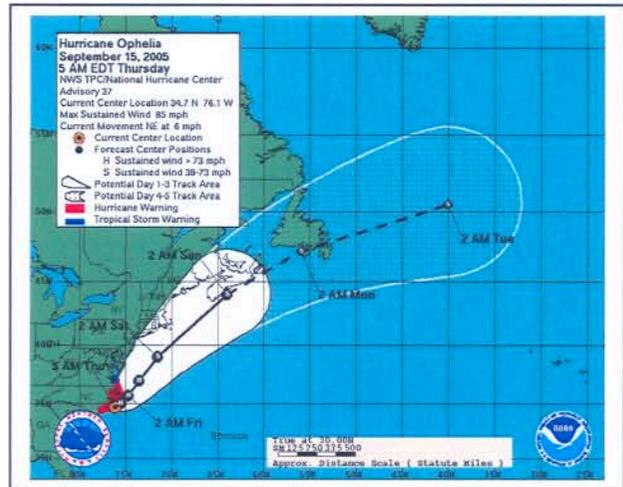
At 5:00 am EDT on Thursday September 15, the center of Hurricane Ophelia was located near latitude 34.7 north and longitude 76.1 west, or about 30 miles east-northeast of Cape Lookout, North Carolina and about 50 miles southwest of Cape Hatteras, North Carolina.

Ophelia is moving toward the northeast near 6 mph and this motion is expected to continue today. While the center of the storm is expected to parallel and pass a very short distance offshore the Outer Banks of North Carolina over the next 12 hours, the northwest eyewall is expected to remain over the outer banks during this period.

Maximum sustained winds are near 85 mph with higher gusts. Ophelia is a Category One Hurricane and a gradual weakening should begin later today. Hurricane force winds extend outward up to 40 miles from the center and tropical storm force winds extend outward up to 140 miles. Latest minimum central pressure reported was 982 mb (29.00 inches).

A Hurricane Warning remains in effect from Surf City to the North Carolina/Virginia border, including the Pamlico and Albemarle Sounds. A Hurricane Watch and a Tropical Storm Warning remain in effect north of the North Carolina/Virginia border to Cape Charles Light, Virginia, including the Chesapeake Bay south of New Point Comfort.

NWS Forecasters indicate maximum coastal storm surge flooding of 4-6 feet above normal tide levels along with large and dangerous battering waves. A storm surge of 8-10 feet is possible at the heads of bays and rivers. The storm is expected to produce rainfall accumulations of 3-5 inches over eastern



North Carolina including the Outer Banks during the next 24 hours, with maximum storm total amounts of 15 inches possible. *(National Hurricane Center)*

### **Hurricane Ophelia Response and Impacts**

FEMA Emergency Response Team – Advance (ERT-A) team that was located in South Carolina has demobilized and assets have deployed to North Carolina in support of hurricane response operations.

8 Individual Assistance Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) teams have been deployed to North Carolina.

Joint Field Office logistics build out team for North Carolina is ready for departure if needed.

10 Public Assistance PDA teams will be available on Friday for deployment if needed.

There are approximately 1,200 people located in 19 evacuation centers/shelters in North Carolina as of 11:00 p.m. Wednesday.

FEMA Region IV reports that over 120,000 electric power outages in North Carolina.

South Carolina EOC reports no transportation impacts, except for restrictions on the use of the Charleston port.

North Carolina EOC reports no airport closures. All ports are closed, rail operations east of Interstate-95 are closed, and many local roads are closed. *(FEMA Region IV, News Media)*

### **Weather Forecast for the U.S.**

**South:** Hurricane Ophelia will continue to hit North Carolina with high winds and heavy rainfall on Thursday. There may be damages from storm surge, high winds, and potential tornadoes. Other parts of the South including Oklahoma, Arkansas, northern Texas, Tennessee and northern Mississippi may also see scattered storms and potentially heavy rains. High temperatures in the region will be in the 80s and 90s.

**Midwest:** Showers and thunderstorms are forecast for the Ohio Valley and Missouri on Thursday. A cold front will continue moving eastward across the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley on Thursday. High temperatures will range from the 60s in the upper Midwest to the 80s in the lower portions of the Midwest.

**Northeast:** There will be showers and thundershowers in many parts of the Northeast as Ophelia moves northward along the coast and a cold front moves eastward from the Midwest. Highs will range from the 60s in Maine to the 80s south to the Mid-Atlantic area.

**West:** Other than a few rain showers, the West will have dry weather. High temperatures will range mostly in the 60s and 70s except in the southern California where temperatures will be in the 90s and in the southwest desert areas where highs will be near 100. Most of the region will be dry through Saturday. *(National Weather Service, Media Sources)*

### **California Ratifies EMAC Pact**

The Governor of California signed legislation yesterday that enabled that state to join the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), which helps states share emergency aid during times of disaster. It enables California to send aid and to receive aid from other states without negotiating agreements prior to activation.

In the past, the California Office of Emergency Services (OES) had to negotiate agreements with other governors before either state could act. The Governor also signed a measure that allows the California OES to sign emergency management agreements with private organizations to prepare for and respond to disasters. *(Media sources)*

## **Wildfire Update**

**National Preparedness Level:** 4 (on a scale of 1 to 5)

**Current Situation:** Fire activity was light throughout the country with 170 new fires reported. Two new large fires were reported: one each in California and Utah. One large fire was contained in Louisiana.

**Weather Discussion:** A high pressure is currently building over the West creating warm and dry weather conditions. The Gulf Coast area will continue to have sunny weather with highs in the lower 90s. *(National Interagency Fire Center)*

## **Other Tropical Cyclone Activity**

There are currently no storm systems in the Eastern and Central Pacific or Western Pacific that pose any threat to any U.S. interests. *(National Hurricane Center, Joint Typhoon Warning Center)*

## **Earthquake Activity**

During the past 24 hours minor earthquakes have been reported in Hawaii, central and southern Alaska, and the Mount Saint Helens area (Washington). No reports of any damages or injuries. *(USGS National Earthquake Information Center)*

## **Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs)**

No new activity to report. *(FEMA HQ)*

## **Disaster Declaration Activity**

The following Emergency Declarations for all counties in each state related to Hurricane Katrina were declared by the President today:

- FEMA-3242-EM for the State of Minnesota
- FEMA-3243-EM for the State of Nevada
- FEMA-3244-EM for the State of Idaho
- FEMA-3245-EM for the State of Nebraska
- FEMA-3246-EM for the State of Connecticut
- FEMA-3247-EM for the State of North Dakota
- FEMA-3248-EM for the State of California
- FEMA-3249-EM for the State of Wisconsin.
- FEMA-3250-EM for the State of Ohio
- FEMA-3251-EM for the State of Maryland
- FEMA-3252-EM for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- FEMA-3253-EM for the State of Montana

The following Emergency Declaration for Hurricane Ophelia was declared by the President today:

- FEMA-3254-EM for the State of North Carolina *(FEMA HQ)*

## **FEMA Readiness Alert Status:**



### Disaster Teleregistration Activity Chart

DR	Incident Type	09/13/05	Cumulative
1605-AL	Hurricane Katrina	5,974	48,033
1604-MS	Hurricane Katrina	34,345	217,945
1603-LA	Hurricane Katrina	62,412	655,998
1599-WY	Tornado	1	248
	Totals	102,732	922,224

# Joint Field Operations as of September 12, 2005



## DISASTER DECLARATIONS (13)

### 1605-AL

FCO: Ron Sherman  
Phone: 334-270-7700

### 1604-MS

FCO: William Carwile  
Phone: 770-220-5600

### 1603-LA

FCO: William Lokey  
Phone: 940-898-5433

### 1601-LA

FCO: Sandra Coachman  
Phone: 504-613-3391

### 1600-KS

FCO: Thomas J. Costello  
Phone: 816-283-7600

### 1599-WY

FCO: Michael Karl  
Phone: 307-685-8600  
Closing September 23, 2005

### 1598-UT

FCO: Carlos Mitchell  
Phone: 801-578-4000

### 1597-ND

FCO: Anthony Russell  
Phone: 701-250-4140

### 1593-AL

FCO: Michael Bolch  
Phone: 334-270-7700

### 1591-ME

FCO: James N. Russo  
Phone: 207-771-2100  
Closing September 30, 2005

### 1589-NY

FCO: Marianne C. Jackson  
Phone: 518-457-0530

Closing September 15, 2005

### 1585-CA

FCO: David Fukutomi  
Phone: 626-431-3000

### 1577-CA

FCO: David Fukutomi  
Phone: 626-431-3000

## EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS (30)

### 3241-AZ

FCO: Karen E. Armes  
Phone: TBD

### 3240-VA

FCO: Patricia G. Arcuri  
Phone: 215-931-5757

### 3239-IA

FCO: Arthur L. Freeman  
Phone: TBD

### 3238-IN

FCO: Janet M. Odeshoo  
Phone: 312-408-5500

### 3237-AL

FCO: Ron Sherman  
Phone: 334-270-7700

### 3236-KS

FCO: Arthur L. Freeman  
Phone: TBD

### 3235-PA

FCO: Patricia G. Arcuri  
Phone: 215-931-5757

### 3234-SD

FCO: Douglas A. Gore  
Phone: 303-235-4779

### 3233-SC

FCO: Paul Fay  
Phone: TBD

### 3232-MO

FCO: Arthur L. Freeman  
Phone: TBD

### 3231-KY

FCO: Paul Fay  
Phone: TBD

### 3230-IL

FCO: Janet M. Odeshoo  
Phone: 312-408-5500

### 3229-NM

FCO: Carlos Mitchell  
Phone: TBD

### 3228-OR

FCO: John E. Pennington  
Phone: TBD

### 3227-WA

FCO: John E. Pennington  
Phone: TBD

### 3226-DC

FCO: Patricia G. Arcuri  
Phone: 215-931-5757

### 3225-MI

FCO: Janet M. Odeshoo  
Phone: 312-408-5500

### 3224-CO

FCO: Douglas A. Gore  
Phone: 303-235-4779

### 3223-UT

FCO: Douglas A. Gore  
Phone: 303-235-4779

### 3222-NC

FCO: Paul Fay  
Phone: TBD

### 3221-WV

FCO: Patricia G. Arcuri  
Phone: 215-931-5757

### 3220-FL

FCO: Justin DeMello  
Phone: 407-858-2000

### 3219-OK

FCO: Carlos Mitchell  
Phone: TBD

### 3218-GA

FCO: Paul Fay  
Phone: TBD

### 3217-TN

FCO: Paul Fay  
Phone: TBD

### 3216-TX

FCO: Gary Jones  
Phone: 512-908-8700

### 3215-AR

FCO: Gary Jones  
Phone: 512-908-8700

### 3214-AL

FCO: Ron Sherman  
Phone: 334-270-7700

### 3213-MS

FCO: William Carwile  
Phone: 770-220-5600

### 3212-LA

FCO: William Lokey  
Phone: 940-898-5433

The FEMA National Situation Report is prepared by the FEMA National Response Coordination Center (NRCC). Questions can be addressed to NRCC watch officers via phone at 202-646-2828/4541 (staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week), via fax at 202-646-4617, or via e-mail at [FEMA-NRCC@dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-NRCC@dhs.gov).